By DHL

المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

10 September 1991

H E Mr Li Peng
Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China

Excellency,

In the earnest hope of meeting your close and urgent consideration, the Islamic Council appeals to you to extend your much needed support to the just cause of the Iraqi people who deserve to be relieved of the terrible hardships of sanctions against their country.

The limited authorisation of 15 August for the sale of Iraqi oil up to $1.6 billion in the ensuing 6 months made available only $1 billion for Iraqi purchase of emergency food supplies. This was a one-off deal, which did not represent any lifting of sanctions, and is woefully inadequate for the relief of the widespread starvation. According to UN estimates no less than $2.65 billion are needed for the next 4 months alone just to provide disaster level rations of food to the war-ravaged millions of Iraqi men, women and children.

The UN's special envoy to the Gulf has testified that Iraq faced the threat of massive starvation unless sanctions are immediately eased to meet its undeniable need for humanitarian food supplies. Starvation and disease are taking a rising toll of lives and this poignant situation can only worsen in the coming months for want of the basic necessities of life, sanitation, drinking water and medicines. The Secretary General of the UN has himself recently called for increased help for Iraq, as have aid and humanitarian organisations such as the Save the Children Fund.

Excellency, the Republic of Iraq has already been devastated. Moreover, it has complied with all the conditions set in UN resolutions passed against it. Now millions of innocent people are suffering and in despair. The entire Muslim world shares their anguish. We appeal to you, in the name of humanity, to raise China's voice in the Security Council in support of the immediate lifting of sanctions to ease this tragic situation. China's prestige, and your own, would be enhanced world-wide by such a humanitarian act and the whole Muslim world, and all who care about humanity, would owe you a debt of deep gratitude.

Kindly accept the assurance of my highest consideration,
Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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